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AaAbstract

A method and system for locating assets is disclosed that provides the capability for the gathering of information about assets contained in data repositories and the capturing of the gathered information in a database which can be used for the conducting of subsequent searches. The information can be captured from a single data repository or from plural data repositories, e.g., all data repositories maintained by a particular enterprise in disparate locations, with the captured information being consolidated into a single database for access by multiple users.

The present invention has particular application in a software-development environment where the software assets may number in the millions and may be stored in plural languages such as, for example, Java, C/C++, COBOL, HTML, and/or XML. By integrating into the system a series of data analyzers that are specific to each type of data contained in the repositories (e.g., a Java analyzer, a C/C++ analyzer, a COBOL analyzer, an HTML analyzer, and/or an XML analyzer) the system can be used to search the repositories using conventional keyword-searching techniques, as well as by searching for particular attributes specific to a particular language, or by combining keyword-searching with attribute-specific searching.